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# Litterature

Is a biannual newsletter published by the Office of Beautification Programs of the North Carolina Department of Transportation. It is mailed to Adopt-A-Highway volunteers and other interested groups to keep them informed about litter control and prevention activities.

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2007  
Dates to Remember

- Sept. 3rd**  
Labor Day
- Sept. 15-29**  
Fall Litter Sweep
- Oct. 12 - 21**  
NC State Fair
- Nov. 12**  
Veterans Day
- Nov. 22**  
Thanksgiving

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# Litterature

Biannual Newsletter

Summer 2007



## Featured Group

### In Memory of Charlie Cross

Barbara Cross has always liked clean surroundings. When her husband Charlie passed away, she decided to adopt a roadway in his memory near her home in Ruffin. In March of 2000, Mrs. Cross joined the Adopt-A-Highway program and adopted Happy School Road from N.C. 700 to Schoolfield Road.

Initially, she needed help removing the large amounts of litter along the adopted stretch. Her grandchildren, equipped with a four-wheeler and a trailer, put in many hours of work to clean the roadside. After the bulk of the litter was removed, the adopted stretch of Happy School Road became easier to maintain.

Mrs. Cross and her neighbor, Ms. Anna Grubbs, enjoy each others company while on their walks. Every day except Sunday, they walk the adopted stretch, even in the cold weather when they simply bundle up to keep warm.

Most of the litter removed is fast food trash, drink containers and debris that blows out of the back of trash haulers and other vehicles. Mrs. Cross and Ms. Grubbs dispose of the litter they pick up by placing it in their trashcans.

The most unusual litter they have found was a pair of sofa cushions. Unfortunately, the cushions were not submitted in the most unusual litter contest.



Barbara Cross and Anna Grubbs

In her spare time, Mrs. Cross enjoys making window treatments, sewing draperies and creating bedspreads, as well as maintaining her yard.

Both Mrs. Cross and Ms. Grubbs would like folks to take more pride in their communities and stop littering.

The Office of Beautification Programs appreciates the active role that these dedicated citizens play in keeping their part of Rockingham County clean and free of litter.

### Safety Tip

**Pick up litter only during daylight hours, drink plenty of fluids, and take breaks to avoid overexertion.**

**Help support Litter Prevention - Obtain a No Litter Specialty Tag**



Help support anti litter efforts by displaying the litter prevention vehicle license plate.

These special interest plates require a \$20 annual fee in addition to the regular license fee.

A portion of the \$20 from each plate sold is allocated to the department for litter reduction efforts.

For more information visit:  
[www.ncdot.org/dmv](http://www.ncdot.org/dmv).

Scroll down to Specialized License Plates and click on "more." This will take you to the search page.

In step one, click on special interest. Then in box two, select litter prevention and click the "Submit" button.

2006 Year End Litter Stats

- The North Carolina Department of Transportation maintains 79,005 miles of roadway.
- NCDOT expended more than \$16.6 million dollars in litter abatement efforts.
- NCDOT crews, Adopt-A-Highway groups, Department of Correction inmate crews, Community Service Work Program participants and other volunteers picked up more than 10 million pounds of roadside litter.
- Adopt-A-Highway groups picked up 3.6 million pounds of litter of which 240,000 pounds was recycled.
- The NC State Highway Patrol issued 1,233 citations for improper loading/covering of vehicle and 885 citations for littering less than 15 pounds offense code.
- Statewide local police issued 304 citations for improper loading/covering of vehicle and 1,531 citations for littering less than 15 pounds
- The Swat-A-Litterbug program mailed 8,250 letters to those observed littering.

For more information, please visit the Office of Beautification Programs Web site at [www.ncdot.org/~beautification](http://www.ncdot.org/~beautification) and click on the News link to find the 2006 Litter Report.

"Most Unusual Litter" Contest Winners

Entries in Litter Sweep's "Most Unusual Litter" contest continue to confirm that North Carolina is faced with a wide variety of roadside trash. The winners include land deeds from Mecklenburg County, a treadmill and a \$100 restaurant gift certificate.

Photos can be viewed by visiting the Office of Beautification Program Web site at [www.ncdot.org/~beautification](http://www.ncdot.org/~beautification) and clicking on the Litter Sweep link.



1st Place Winner - \$250  
Land deeds from Mecklenburg County  
In Memory of Kenny Witmore



2nd Place Winner - \$100  
Treadmill  
Dan River Basin Association



3rd Place Winner - \$50  
\$100 restaurant gift certificate  
Seventy First Ruritan Club

Raleigh Neighborhood Begins Anew

The Longview Gardens neighborhood in Raleigh held its first litter cleanup on June 9, in an effort to promote litter prevention. The neighborhood is also using NCDOT's Swat-A-Litterbug program. The program allows citizens to report license plate numbers of vehicles involved in littering. A letter from the N.C. State Highway Patrol Commander Fletcher Clay is mailed to the vehicle owner. The letter informs the recipient of the littering observed and that littering is a fineable offense upon conviction.

**Stormwater Facts Q & A**

**Q.Does stormwater come from roads?**

A. Some stormwater pollutants originate on roadways, but roads cover less than two percent of the land in North Carolina.

**Q.Will our government take care of stormwater pollution?**

A. In North Carolina, the state only manages a limited portion of the area affected by stormwater pollution. We must all work to reduce the impact of these pollutants.

AAH Coordinator Profile

By George Kapetanakis

**AAH Coordinator Profile**  
**Donna Prater**  
**Processing Assistant III**  
**Division: 7**  
**Counties: Rockingham**  
**Location: Reidsville**  
**Years as AAH Coordinator: 18**

Donna Prater came to the N.C. Department of Transportation in 1989, as a clerk, in the Rockingham County Maintenance Office. In 1991, she was promoted to Processing Assistant in the District Office. Her responsibilities include data entry, invoice and permit processing and coordinating the Adopt-A-Highway program in Rockingham County.

A highlight of Donna's career was actively participating in testing NCDOT's SAP financial system prior to its release to all employees. After the testing phase had completed, Donna led orientation classes for Highway Division 7 employees and assisted the trainer with instructing participants in the Materials Management module.

In her spare time, Donna is involved in the Rockingham



County Beautification Council. She participates in many meetings regarding litter cleanups and illegal dumping prevention.

George Kapetanakis: Donna, what can you tell me about the Adopt-A-Highway groups in Rockingham County?

Donna Prater: This county has 52 groups that have adopted 105 road miles. The groups are made up of families, businesses and church groups. Of the last five adoptions, two groups were vineyards.

In 2006, these 52 groups filled 1,904 bags with roadside litter. Many groups recycle the trash they pick up. Last year, there were 244 bags of littler recycled.

GK: What is your biggest challenge?

DP: Even though I have recently seen an improvement, my biggest challenge is getting groups to report their cleanups. As a basic requirement to the AAH program, it is important that cleanup reports reflect that every group is active. Submitting reports is the easiest way to communicate that litter is removed from adopted roadways.

GK: What is the most unusual litter found in your area?

DP: It was a handgun found by a church group. They turned it in to law enforcement.

GK: Donna, on behalf of NCDOT and the Office of Beautification Programs, thank you for your 18 years of dedicated service to NCDOT, the AAH program and the citizens of North Carolina.

We also want to thank all of the Adopt-A-Highway groups in Rockingham County for keeping their roadsides clean, green and safe for everyone to enjoy.

Fayetteville Beautiful Kicks Off With Citywide Cleanup

Fayetteville Mayor Tony Chavonne, Fayetteville Beautiful chairman Bobby Hurst and N.C. Department of Transportation Secretary Lyndo Tippet called the citizens of Fayetteville into action on April 14 to clean up roadside litter throughout the community.

More than 1,200 volunteers joined local business and community leaders at the Fayetteville Beautiful kick off.

The cleanup removed 43 tons of litter along 217 miles of roadways in less than three hours.



City employees volunteer for litter pickup